

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 14-223

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Conifer Weeding from Aspen Exclosures Proposal

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 2, hunt unit 7

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Flagstaff

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES[x] **NO**[]

Has this project been submitted in previous years? **YES**[x] **NO**[]

If Yes, was it funded? **YES**[] **NO**[X]→ **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

Project Type: Aspen Revegetation, Hand Thinning

Brief Project Summary: This project would remove conifer encroachment in up to 17 aspen exclosures on the Flagstaff Ranger District located in the Hart Prairie Area. The removal of the conifers inside of the aspen exclosures will promote aspen regeneration.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit:

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: April or May 2015

Project End Date: July 2015

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: **Yes**[X] **No**[] **N/A**[]

Projected Completion Date: _____

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

Yes[X] **No**[] **N/A**[]

Projected Completion Date: _____

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: **N/A**[]

To be Completed by: _____

Projected Completion Date: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:

\$ \$19,100.00

Cost Share or Matching Funds:

\$ 4,179.12

Total Project Costs:

\$ 23,279.12

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Shawn Martin

Address:

Flagstaff Ranger District

5075 N. Hwy 89

Flagstaff, AZ 86004

E-mail:

samartin@fs.fed.us

Telephone: 928-527-8285

Date: 8/27/14

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel): Steve Rosenstock, 928-214-1253

Project has been coordinated with: Steve Rosenstock

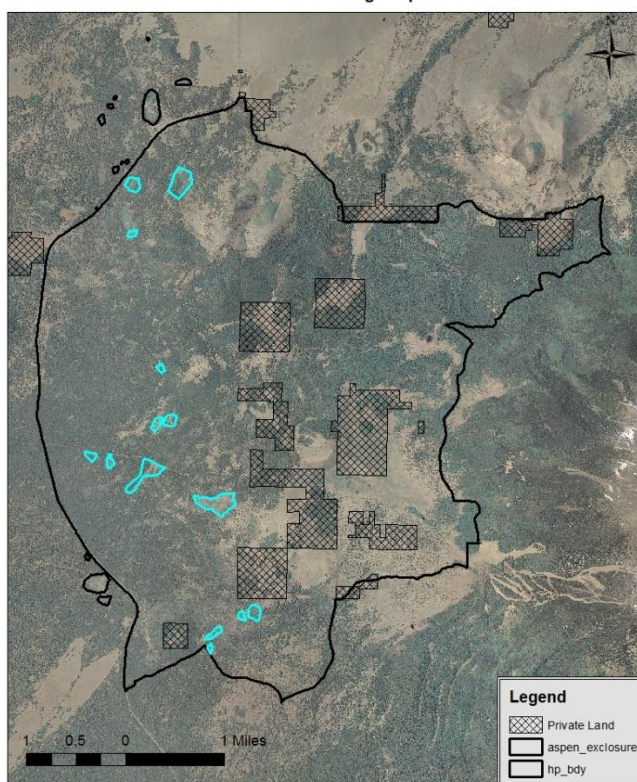
NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS: The aspen forests on the Flagstaff Ranger District of the Coconino NF have been in decline for the last 30 years due to variety of factors. Aspen regeneration in the last 30 years has not been successful outside of elk enclosure fences.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: To promote healthy aspen regeneration by removing competing conifer inside of existing elk enclosure fences.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES: The Flagstaff Ranger District has over 50 aspen exclosures spread across the district. Many of these exclosures are decades old and have experienced significant conifer encroachment. This proposal focuses on exclosures within the Hart Prairie Project Area, which includes about 17 fences encompassing approximately 150 acres, but could be expanded to other areas on the district as well. The project would involve removal of young (post settlement) conifers that have encroached into aspen exclosures (Figure 5). This proposal would fund a contract crew, such as Southwest Conservation Corp (formerly CREC), to fell encroaching conifers and pile. Slash would be all hand-piled, or lopped, scattered, and burned.

Figure 5. Aspen Exclosures in Hart Prairie Project

Hart Prairie Conifer Weeding Proposal - 2014



PROJECT LOCATION: Hart Prairie

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S): Coconino National Forest

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

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*IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or
LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?*

YES[] NO[] N/A[]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION: Aspen Stands

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Forestry Crew | \$4,000.00/week x 4 weeks = | \$16,000.00 |
| Planning/Overhead (Silv /Fuels) | \$ 700.00 | \$ 700.00 |
| Project Administration | \$ 300.00/day x 8 days | \$ 2,400.00 |
| | Total: | \$19,100.00 |

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

Volunteers from the Friends of Northern Arizona National Forests will be involved with planning and coordinating this project and with the long term maintenance of the exclosures.

It is estimated that the value of their work is: **\$4,179.12**

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION: Friends of Northern Arizona Forests. Volunteer

WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?

YES[] NO[X] N/A[]

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

District Staff will be working with the saw crew to identify the trees that need to be cut and to ensure the slash is dealt with in a satisfactory manner.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The district works closely with the Friends of Northern Arizona Forest to maintain the fences. The volunteers check on the fences every year and conduct repairs as needed.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Shawn Marin, Flagstaff RD Silviculturist.

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS *(please use the worksheet below):*

TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS *(please use the worksheet below):*

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Conifer Weeding from Aspen Exclosures

- 1) **What is the estimated acreage of the project?** 150 acres
- 2) **How are the trees going to be cleared? (agra axe, chain saw, grubbing, push, chaining):**
Hand felled by chain saw
- 3) **What is the estimated number of trees per acre?** Ranges from 0-150
- 4) **Describe trees to be cleared (species, estimated diameter, single stem, multi-stem):** Trees to be removed are post settlement conifer trees. Size ranges from 1 foot to 24" dbh.
- 5) **Describe terrain (slope, soil type, rocks):** The aspen exclosures are all located in Hart Prairie Area between the Wilderness area and Hwy 180. Most exclosures are located on gentle slopes and are fairly easy to access.
- 6) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (e.g. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.:** All exclosures are located on National Forest Land outside of wilderness.
- 7) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**
Type of access (mark one): ☐ 2x4 vehicles ☒ 4x4 only ☐ Foot only**

**If foot access only: Distance in miles: Approx. hiking time:

Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES ☐ NO ☒

Is the site relatively accessible for tree removal equipment? YES ☒ NO ☐

Please describe any restrictions to public access: The public are not allowed inside of the exclosures.